

REMARKS

The rejections and comments of the Examiner set forth in the Office Action dated September 4, 2003 have been carefully reviewed by the Applicant.

Claims 1-19 are currently rejected. Claims 1, 10, and 17 are amended herein. No new matter is introduced as a result of the amendments. Please cancel Claim 9 without prejudice.

Claim Objections

Claim 9 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base Claim. The Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for indicating the allowability of Claim 9. The Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1, 10, and 17 are amended herein to include the limitations recited in Claim 9.

35 U.S.C. 102(b) Rejections

Claims 1-4, 10-12, and 17-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Maughmer (U.S. Patent No. 4,318,300), hereinafter referred to as "Maughmer." Claims 1, 10, and 17 are amended herein to recite the additional claim limitations recited in Claim 9. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1, 10, and 17 overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(b).

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Claims 2-8 depend from Claim 1 and recite additional limitations descriptive of embodiments of the present invention. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 2-8 overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(b).

Claims 11-16 depend from Claim 10 and recite additional limitations descriptive of embodiments of the present invention. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 11-16 overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(b).

Claims 18-19 depend from Claim 17 and recite additional limitations descriptive of embodiments of the present invention. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 18-19 overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(b).

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CONCLUSION

In light of the above remarks, the Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejected Claims.

Based on the arguments presented above, the Applicants respectfully assert that Claims 1-8, and 10-19 overcome the rejections of record and, therefore, the Applicants respectfully solicit allowance of these Claims.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative if the Examiner believes such action would expedite resolution of the present Application.

Respectfully submitted,

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